

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /086 W

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R 191455Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8657

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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T.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH MISSION TO LEBANON

REF: PARIS 4929

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF
FRENCH MISSION NOTED IN REFTEL APPEARED IN
THIS MORNING'S LEBANESE PRESS.

2. THERE ARE INICATIONS THAT FRENCH MISSION RESULTS PARTLY
FROM APPROACHES TO THE FRENCH BY LEBANESE PRES FRANGIE'S RELA-
TIVE, LUCIEN DAHDAH (CHAIRMAN OF THE INTRA-INVESTMENT COMPANY)
WHO PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SYRIAN INITIATIVE AIMED AT FINDING
SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS. DAHDAH ACTUALLY APPROACHED EMB-
ASSY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF A U.S. ROLE IN
THE RECONSTRUCTION ASPECTS OF A SETTLEMENT AND STATED THAT
FRANCE WOULD BE ANOTHER POSSIBILITY TO FULFILL THIS ROLE.

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3. SOUR GRAPE COMMENTARY APART,THE FRENCH HAVE ALWAYS

SEEMED TO BE MORE AGILE WITH RESPECT TO TAKING ADVANTAGE
OF THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CON-
STRUCTION CONTRACTS, AND MAY WELL HAVE NOT IGNORED SUCH
CONSIDERATIONS IN THIS CASE. AFTER ALL, IT IS REASONABLE TO
ASSUME THAT THE LEBANESE WILL BE EVENTUALLY
SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING LARGE CREDITS FROM THE WEALTHY
ARAB COUNTRIES FOR VARIOUS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.
BEING IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE FRENCH TECHNICIANS TO
PREPARE THE SPECIFICATINS ON SUCH PROJECTS WOULD OB-
VIOUSLY BE HELPFUL TO FRENCH COMMERICAL INTEREST.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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